

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-5, 9-15, 19-24, 28-30, 36-41, 46-51, 55-59, and 61-66 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 6, 7, 16, 17, 25, 26, 42, 43, 52, and 60 have been amended.

Claims 31-35 have been allowed, and claims 6-8, 16-18, 25-27, 42-45, ~~52-54~~ and 60 have been indicated as including allowable subject matter, but stand objected to for depending from rejected base claims.

Accordingly, allowable claims 6, 7, 16, 17, 25, 26, 42, 43, 52, and 60 have been amended into independent form. Further, the remaining allowable claims, depending from these pending allowable independent claims, are, thus, also in allowable condition.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

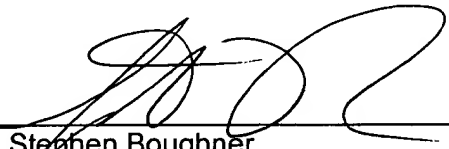
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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5/24/04

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